

placed in special units, a point which has been stressed in this country recently. It is also suggested that a more integrated mental health service for the deaf should be set up, and this should cover both children and adults on an in-patient and out-patient basis. Specialized staff should be available to deal with these cases, while the psychologist must perfect intelligence and projective tests for the deaf. Further research into methods of psychiatric treatment is necessary, particularly in the pharmacological and group therapy fields.

The book serves a very useful purpose in bringing this important aspect of psychiatry into prominence; in this country it has been far too long neglected and more money should be spent on research into the whole subject.

LOUIS MINSKI.

**Mental Health in the United States.** By NINA RIDENOUR. Harvard University Press, The Commonwealth Fund. 1961. Pp. xii+146. Price 28s.

The theme of this book is the way in which increasing notice has been taken of the mentally ill in the United States over the past fifty years and what has been achieved as a result. It is the story of those pioneers, organizers, administrators and benefactors who have done something to bring to the minds of their inert circle the plight of psychiatric patients. Almost all the well-known names in the American psychiatric past appear in lucid descriptions of a succession of movements which were initiated and maintained with enthusiasm. This enthusiasm is conveyed in a style which makes the whole work readily appreciable to the general reader. In fourteen short chapters, developments in every facet embraced by the concept of mental health are followed. The birth of the social worker in Boston, the administrative needs of the world wars, the increasing flow of literature and the cold war between the press and psychiatry are a few random examples from the multitude of topics. This book—without index or annotation—is deceptively laden with facts. While the psychiatrist will make national comparisons on many pages, this book has its chief potential in its educational value to the general public. It is of a standard which deserves wide reading.

JOHN POLLITT.

**Voluntary Action and the State: The Eastern State Health Education Conference.** Edited by IAGO GALDSTON, M.D. The New York Academy of Medicine. International University Press. 1962. Pp. 152. Price \$3.00.

This conference was held in April, 1961, at the New York Academy of Medicine and the report contains contributions of eleven participants who discussed the relationship between voluntary movements in the health field on the one hand and the role of government on the other. There is a certain amount of repetition in the different papers. The principal points are reviewed in summary form. The totalitarian government by élites is contrasted with limited government by democracies. It is argued that the latter should limit government to the protection of citizen's rights and to tasks which individuals or groups cannot do for themselves. In the health field this is exemplified by endeavours to establish services for old persons. The need to develop a public philosophy is stressed and it is speculated "that as we now lie at the feet of the psychiatrist to improve our private philosophies, we may one day sit at the feet of the philosopher to improve our public philosophies".

One contribution gives a short review of the history of public action in the health field, in which it also stated that at present only 20 per cent. of the total expenditure of 24 thousand million dollars for health services comes from the public sector. The Federal Government often acts only as a catalyst by providing public funds for the construction of or renovation of hospitals and then withdraws, leaving no money available for day-to-day operation and maintenance.

In the field of research, particularly that which has developed in the extramural research grant programmes of the Public Health Service of the National Institute of Health, federal funds today constitute two-thirds of the total national outlay for scientific research and development at 8.5 thousand million dollars in 1960. Of the 25 federal agencies using such funds nine accounted for 99 per cent. of the total. The Department of Defence, Atomic Energy and National Aeronautics alone take 91 per cent. The fourth largest is the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The largest amount within the latter goes to the physical sciences proper. In 1960, 380,000,000 dollars in federal funds went to the medical sciences, another 104,000,000 to the biological sciences and some 34,000,000 to the social sciences. In all federal expenditures on medical and other health research contributes less than 6 per cent. of the total.

The National Institute of Health at Bethesda is the largest single source of funds in the U.S.A. It employs 8,000 people at Bethesda. It has certain basic philosophies, i.e. the provision of maximum freedom for the research investigator. Each takes the initiative for planning and carrying out his research